**Patricia F. Colrick:**

Patricia F. Colrick has pursued a lifelong dedication to art, from majoring in Fine Arts at Barnard College in New York, to completing a Masters Degree in Historic Preservation from the Columbia University School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. After working in landmarks preservation and writing several historical books, she began to focus more on the natural world as an inspiration for her advocacy and art. Her paintings respectfully evoke the wonder of such places. She is a resident of Spring Lake.

**Artist Statement:**

The coastal estuary scenes I painted for this project were inspired by those found at Sandy Hook Bay and the many inlets nearby. These natural areas nurture a great diversity of life and also serve to naturally purify water and protect the land from erosion. Visible here below a vibrant sky ribboned by clouds are salt marshes. Brant (small geese) and a sandpiper are visible as well as native sea shells in the foreground. Spartina Altinerflora, or chordgrass, screens the view of the marshland beyond. It is my hope that this peaceful scene will encourage appreciation and respect for New Jersey’s coastal waterways, which naturalists consider to be “the most productive ecosystems on earth.”

*More can be learned on this subject through The Ocean Institute at Sandy Hook.*